

Spark Gap

Vol. 31, Issue 3, March 2014 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-one years*

On Our MARC...

I'm not sure how anyone else feels but I will have to say that I am over this winter. Can't wait until Spring. However, with my work load I guess having bad weather is a good thing. I do not want to be outside.

I heard that we will be hosting a Tech Class for approximately 40 Boy Scouts starting March 12, 2014. Class will be held at Our Lady of Greenwood in the cafeteria and class will be from 7 PM to 9 PM. If anyone has a chance, let's show them our support. If you have any questions, please look on the website as all information is posted there.

At the March meeting, our speaker will be Chris Frederick, KQ9Y. Chris will be talking Coax 102.

See you Saturday and the coffee will be on.

Jacki-KI6QOG

President

Coffee Break Training

We are going to introduce a new segment to the monthly newsletter called Coffee Break Training. Coffee Break Training is widely used by the fire service and is published through the National Fire Academy for training. For us the goal is to cover a brief topic and present it in a short article that can be informative and read in the time it would take to have a coffee break. At first we are going to approach the subjects relating to disaster response for ARES/RACES training. Future topics can be anything from explaining best amateur radio practices, an overview of setting up that TNC, explaining a new popular software package set up or troubleshooting something in the shack

With the November tornados and the disaster declaration that followed for Illinois we are going to start off by following the FEMA news releases from there. They are informative and help to explain the steps and clear up confusion of the big red tape machine that can be intimidating or misleading. I hope that the information we present in those articles will help to educate us on the process and give us the information we would need if, heaven forbid, we find ourselves in the field after a disaster. I can tell you from my experiences that being in the field after a disaster, just having that radio in our hands makes us a magnet for people with questions: What do I do now? How do I get help? The news said to apply for FEMA assistance, what's that all about?

To start off below is the first installment of Coffee Break Training. We welcome any feedback or suggestions you may have and can be sent to PIO@midstatehams.org. If you would like to write an article please let us know.

Rusty NgLLP

After the storm – How to register for disaster assistance and why you should.

OBJECTIVE: Understand the importance of disaster victims registering with FEMA for Individual Assistance (IA) after a disaster.

After a storm or flood takes place many affected residents may speak to representatives from insurance companies and state and local agencies about disaster assistance and may fall under the mistaken impression they have registered with FEMA for disaster assistance. These victims can get this mistaken idea because they are talking with all kinds of representatives giving their name, address, Insurance policy numbers, social security number and other contact information to what seems to be half of the world! You ask ‘Would it be easier to post it on face book?’

Unfortunately, if a resident in an affected area has not registered with FEMA they will not be eligible for any disaster assistance from FEMA or the Small Business Administration (SBA). The way to know for sure that you have registered with FEMA is if you have been assigned a nine-digit Registration Identification Number, which verifies your registration status.

Registration opens many doors for assistance and can include assistance from 17 Federal agencies ranging from Dept of Agriculture for farm loans to the US Postal Service for a temporary or permanent change of address. All persons in a declared disaster area should apply for assistance even if they don’t think they need it. Should they choose not to apply for assistance, their demographic information can be used in recovery efforts and mitigation (prevention) planning. When registering they should have the following info prior to contacting the registration center.

Have a Social Security number and Be a U.S. Citizen, Non-Citizen National or Qualified Alien.

Insurance Information: Homeowners, mobile home, automobile, flood, etc..

Description of damage.

Family’s total annual household gross income.

Address where the disaster occurred and current contact information. (mailing address, phone)

Bank account information; For direct deposit of any awarded assistance funds.

Giving informed answers to basic questions on something seemingly so simple as this are a central and vital part of people being able to rebuilt and return to normalcy. It helps to reduce stress at a time that many don’t need any more. Going through what may be the loss of their home, treasured possessions, injury of a pet or family member are monumental events and these are the steps someone can take to help themselves get life back together. Contacting your insurance agent does not re

Affected individuals and business owners in designated areas can begin the disaster application process by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or by web enabled mobile device at m.fema.gov.

Note: Edited from FEMA Region V news release, summer 2013, FEMA Number 4116-IL NR-049.

Next Month: Assistance for Affected Individuals and Families Can Include ?

Birthdays for the month of March:

KC9VGQ Chris Mazzarella

KC9WLR Mike Rose

Many Thanks

Our thanks to long time MARC club member Win Hardisty-K9EMV, for his donation of three HF rigs to the club. These classic HF rigs include a Yaesu DX400, Kenwood TS 440s and a Kenwood TD 520. All of these radios have been well maintained and are available at reduced club prices.

The rigs may be sold at the Columbus Hamfest March 29th. See Jack W8ISH for further details. Email w8ish@arrl.net for further details.

Thanks to Win Hardisty for his generous donations.

Jack W8ISH

Area Hams get Severe Weather Briefing

It was standing room only for the 2014 NWS Severe Weather Briefing March 4th at the Johnson county EOC. Over three dozen Johnson county citizens and MARC Amateur Radio operators packed the EOC training room for the two and a half hour training session. Those numbers included about twenty Boy Scouts and their leaders from Morgan county.

Indianapolis NWS Meteorologist in Charge, Dan McCarty explained the basics of severe weather and how Indiana is a natural mixing bowl for those conditions. At one point, with the assistance of several Mooresville scouts, he demonstrated that the space inside a vortex is calm while the spinning vortex can grow faster and become a deadly tornado.

McCarty showed dozens of wall cloud examples, real action tornadoes and severe flooding videos to demonstrate the dangerous forces of nature.

Everyone in the class came away with a much better understanding of what to watch for and report on in the upcoming severe weather season.

Jack-W8ISH



Dan with NWS



Scouts in the Vortex

NY blizzard of '96. One Amateur Radio operator's experience

The Blizzard of '96' is long gone remembered by some in the North-east as a time off from school, by others as days of backbreaking shoveling, and by a few as a time to sip cocoa and marvel at the winter wonderland. But for me, it was a time to make friends on the Northeast Connect. The hams I met on this 2-meter and 70-centimeter repeater network helped me make my way home on a very snowy, blowy night.

I started out from Manhattan on that Sunday evening, after eight inches of snow had already fallen, and headed 65 miles north to my home in Orange County, New York. Purely by habit, I headed toward the Palisades Interstate Parkway, a lovely road in nice weather that can turn treacherous in snow and ice. Looking back, I probably should have stayed in New York City; but, nonetheless, I started on my way.

I pulled out of the parking garage, turned on my radio, gave my call sign and Brian, WA2FWM, responded. Brian and I had talked earlier that day and he remembered that I was planning to travel home during the storm. He was concerned about my well-being and decided to monitor the frequency just in case I needed help. The reason he gave was simple: "Hams just do that". This was the first true lesson I learned as a new ham.

I received the call sign KB2VNB on August 14, 1995, but it was well into December before I made my first transmission. After getting one or two QSOs under my belt, I stumbled on the Northeast Connect and met Brian. He was friendly, patient, helpful, and he made me feel welcome on the repeater network. (A good example for the rest of us.--ed.)

Into the Storm

As I drove, we began our QSO with the topic du jour, the weather, and I maneuvered through the medium-sized snow-drifts that were forming in the middle of the road. I knew, all along that this idea was not the ripest banana of the bunch and I should have gotten a hotel room, but by now I was committed. Brian offered several times to call my home and update my wife of my progress. I couldn't believe that he was willing to make a long-distance call for me. And he wasn't the only one to offer.

Soon after my adventure began, Dave, N3QCK, joined the QSO and was willing to call my wife. I was finally convinced when a third station near my QTH, John, N2TTM, offered to telephone my wife. These guys wanted one thing and that was to help. "Hams just do that".

The four of us talked about almost everything. I don't remember much of the content but I do remember that it felt as if I had these guys in the car with me. In actuality, Brian was transmitting from the Albany, New York, area, 100 miles to my north; Dave from Scranton, Pennsylvania, about the same distance to the west; John from Monroe, New York, not far from my destination, and I was treading snow somewhere alongside the Hudson River on the Palisades Parkway. What made it all possible was the linked repeater network known as the Northeast Connect.

Keeping Tabs

There were plenty of times when I just drove and didn't talk. Each time my voice was absent for more than 10 minutes, Dave would call me. He was very adamant about getting me home (I'm convinced he used a stopwatch). "Hams just do that."

In all of the storms I've driven through on this particular road, this was the first that there was no other vehicle of any kind on it, from beginning to end. But I had plenty of company. The trip took over five hours and all three stations stayed with me through it all. They wanted to hear me safely home--and I did.

Helping All Mankind

A few days later I spoke to Brian again and he told me that, to him, "HAM" means Helping All Mankind. Lesson #2. I now have regular QSOs with Brian and Dave. I haven't spoken to John since and would like to extend my appreciation for his help. The unsung heroes of all this are the people of the Northeast Connect, who work hard to make the network function in time of need and demand only excellence from the stations that operate on it. My sincere thanks to all.

"Helping All Mankind...Hams just do that."

Local Nets FYI

INARES HF Voice Net

Repeats every week every Sunday until Sun Dec 28th 2014 .

Sunday 5:00pm IN-ARRL 80m SSB | 3.900 MHz IN Statewide

Tune in to the IN ARES HF voice net at 3.900 MHz LSB at 5:00 PM Eastern Time every Sunday.

Johnson County ARES Net

Repeats every week until Sun Dec 28th 2014 .

Sunday 7:00pm Mid States ARC | 146.835 MHz Johnson

Hamilton County ARES Net

Repeats every week every Sunday until Sunday Dec 28th 2014 .

Sunday 8:00pm Hamilton Co ARES 2m | 145.170 MHz Hamilton

\The Hamilton County ARES Net is every Sunday at 2000 hours on the 145.170 (PL77) repeater which is linked to the 443.550 (PL77) repeater.

IN-ARRL CW Traffic Net QIN (evening)

Repeats every day until Wednesday Dec 31 2014 .

Sunday 8:00pm IN-ARRL CW | 3.535 MHz IN Statewide

For more information, go to: <http://indianacw.net>

IN-ARRL CW Traffic Net QIN (morning)

Repeats every day until Wednesday Dec 31 2014 .

Monday 9:30am IN-ARRL CW | 3.535 MHz IN Statewide

For more information, go to: <http://indianacw.net>

Shelby County ARES Net

Repeats every week until Monday Dec 29 2014 .

Monday 7:30pm Blue River ARC 2m | 145.480 MHz Shelby

Hendricks County ARES Net

Repeats every week every Tuesday until Wednesday Dec 24 2014 .

Tuesday 7:30pm Hendricks Co ARS | 147.015 MHz Hendricks

Check-ins, announcements

Hancock County ARES Net

Repeats every week every Tuesday until Wednesday Dec 24 2014 .

Tuesday 7:30pm Hancock ARC primary 2m | 145.330 MHz Hancock

Indianapolis 220 net

Repeats every week every Tuesday until Wednesday Dec 24 2014 .

Tuesday 8:00pm K9XV | 224.800 MHz Marion

Dust off your 220 rig and join Steve Curtis ND9C on 224.800 MHz (88.5 Hz PL tone) every Tuesday evening at 8:00pm. The 224.800 repeater is usually linked to the 147.210 repeater for this net, so even if you don't have a 220 radio, you can join in.

Newsline

Repeats every week until Wednesday Dec 24 2014 .

Wednesday 7:00pm Indianapolis Repeater Assoc 2m | 146.700 MHz Marion

[link:Amateur Radio Newsline] news broadcast.

Marion County ARES and Information Net

Repeats every week until Wednesday Dec 24 2014 .

Wednesday 7:30pm Indianapolis Repeater Assoc 2m | 146.700 MHz Marion

Morgan County ARES

Repeats every week until Wed Dec 24 2014 .

Wednesday 8:00pm Morgan RA 2m | 147.060 MHz Morgan

INARES HF Digital Net

Repeats every month every Wednesday until Wednesday Dec 24 2014 .

Wednesday 8:30pm IN-ARRL Digital | 3.583 MHz IN Statewide

Mode: OLIVIA 500/8 (mode may change at discretion of net control)

Use of FLDigi / FLMSG programs is expected to fully participate in this net. Operators using other software will not be able to copy and extract messages sent in standard template format using error detection.

Operators proficient with FLDigi and who have robust digital stations on 80m should contact Larry WB9FHP during the net and offer to serve as net control occasionally. This is the Indiana ARES Digital Net and we need to share the load and responsibility for maintaining this net.

Boone County ARES Net

Repeats every week every Thursday until Thursday Dec 225 2014 .

Thursday 8:00pm N9HLL | 147.105 MHz

Boone

Marion County IDHS RACES Net

Repeats every month on the first Sunday until Sunday Dec 07 2014 .

Sunday 7:00pm District 5 VHF | 147.210 MHz

District 5

This RACES Net is open to all licensed amateur radio operators. It is for the testing of equipment and the dissemination of information.

IDHS RACES Monthly Net

Repeats every month on the second Sunday until Sun Dec 07th 2014 except Sunday Jan 04 2015,
Sunday July 06 2014.

Sun 10-13 6:00pm IDHS RACES 80m SSB | 3.920 MHz

IN Statewide

The purpose of the net is to evaluate Indiana amateur radio disaster communications through the RACES program and to pass traffic and information.

All Indiana county EMA Directors or their designated representatives only are asked to check-in to this net.

CW Indiana Slow Speed Traffic/Training Net

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The Indiana slow speed cw traffic/training net meets every evening at 7PM local time on 3.535 MHZ. For more information go to www.indianaslow.net and check it out. Net check-in and Q signals that are used on cw nets can be found at that site.

..... Sam WA9VBG

2014 HAMFESTS

- March 8 Terre Haute Hamfest, Indiana State University Dede Activity Center, Terre Haute IN, 9 AM till 2 PM, <http://w9uuu.org/>
- March 29 Columbus Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Community Building in Columbus, Indiana, 8 AM till Noon, <http://www.carcnet.org/>
- April 12 North Central Indiana Hamfest , Miami County 4-H Fairground, Miami County Road 200 North & 1029W, Peru IN <http://www.nci-hamfest.net/>
- July 12 Indianapolis Hamfest, MARION COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS, <http://www.indyhamfest.com>
- Sept. 20 Greenfield Hamfest , First Church of God 700 N. Broadway, Greenfield, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM, contact wb9cne@arrl.net, www.w9atg.org
- Nov. 15-16 Indiana State Convention, Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>

Dayton Hamvention® 2014

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MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a HAM to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL Tone

Club Officers:
President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Vice President: Dave Daily – KB9LOT
Secretary: Rhonda Curtis– WS9H
Treasurer: Linda Harshbarger – KC9GCH
Repeater Trustee: Steve Brown – N9LC

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

*P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana
46131*

Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month

